



Directorate of
Intelligence

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Terrorism Review

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16 July 1987

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16 July 1987

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Terrorism Review

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Terrorism Review

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16 July 1987

Focus

Terrorist Threat to US Interests
in the Persian Gulf

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US facilities and personnel in the Persian Gulf offer Iran a variety of targets if Tehran decides to wage a terrorist campaign to get the United States out of the Gulf. We believe Tehran or its surrogates in the Gulf probably would prefer to attack a facility that housed or hosted US diplomatic or military personnel rather than one with which only private US citizens are associated. Iranian officials and leaders of pro-Khomeini extremist factions in Lebanon that have targeted the United States in the past have made pointed references in recent speeches to the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut in October 1983, which they credit with forcing the United States out of Lebanon.

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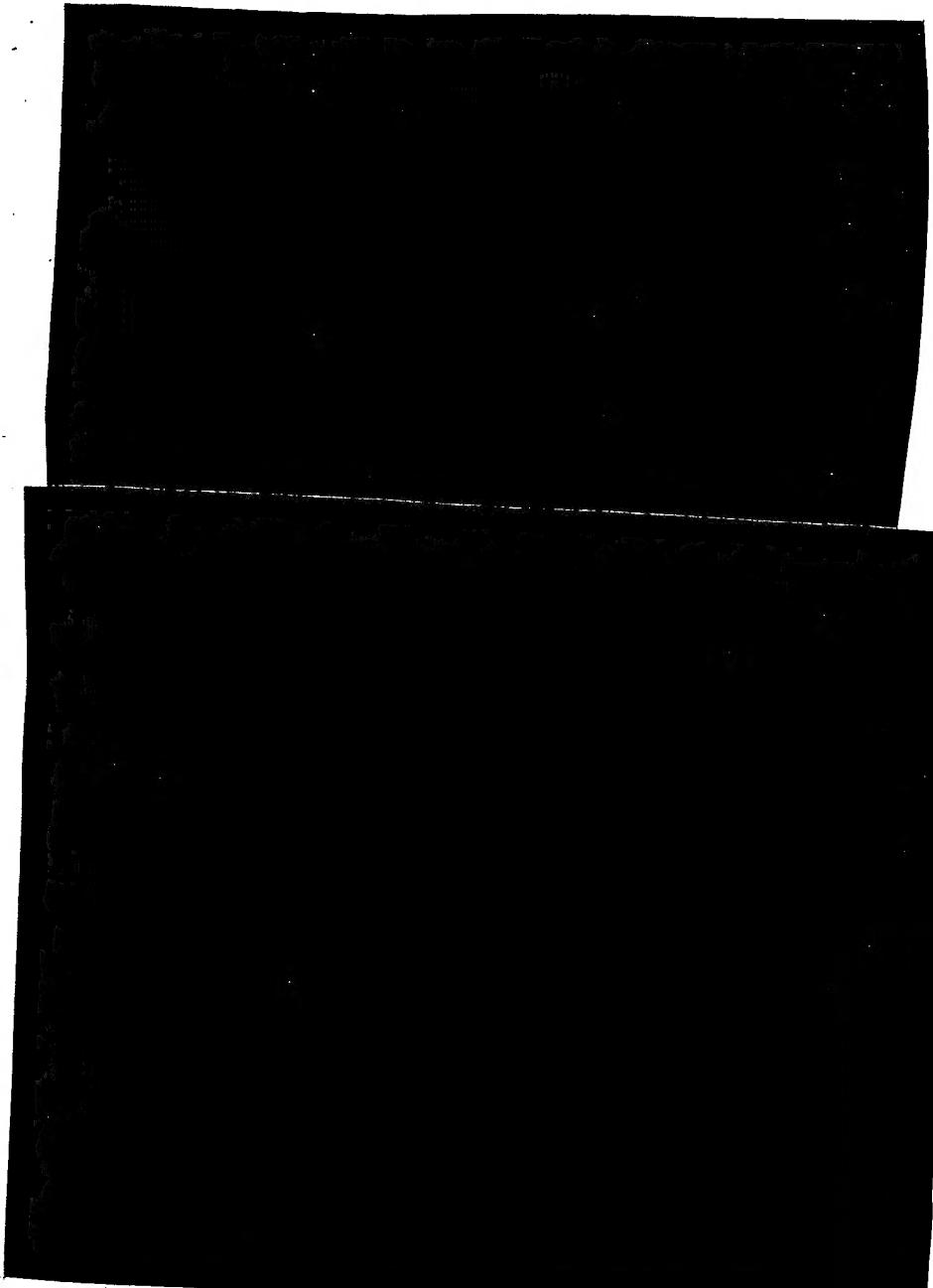
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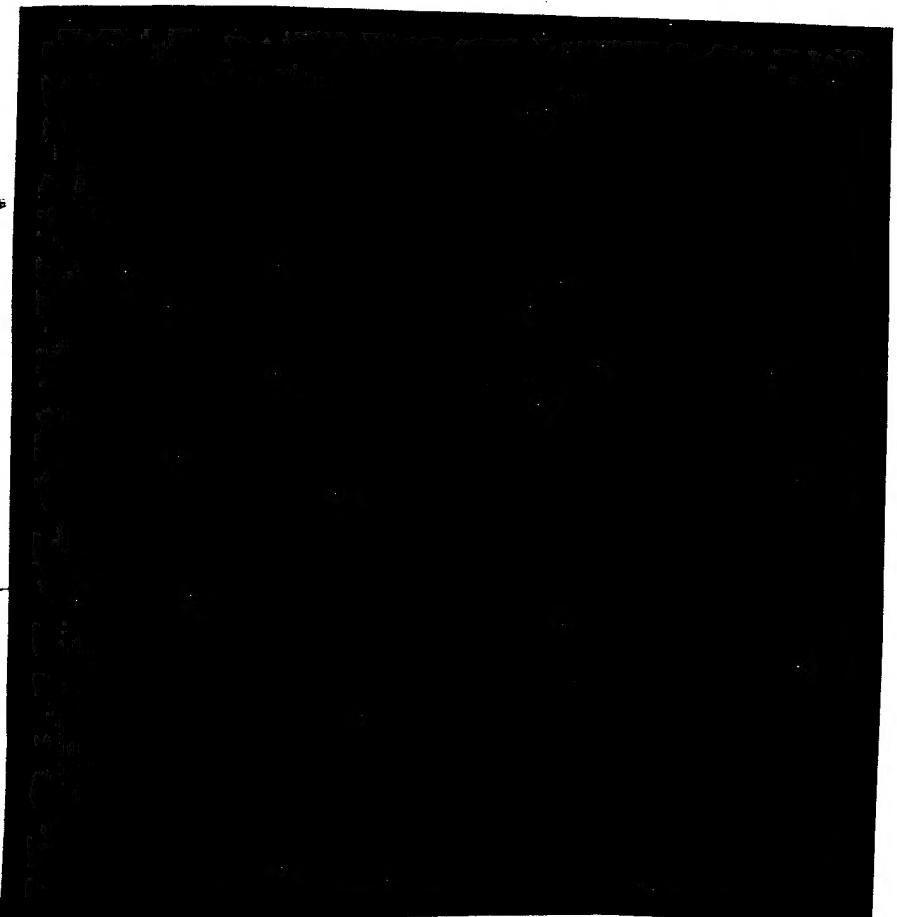
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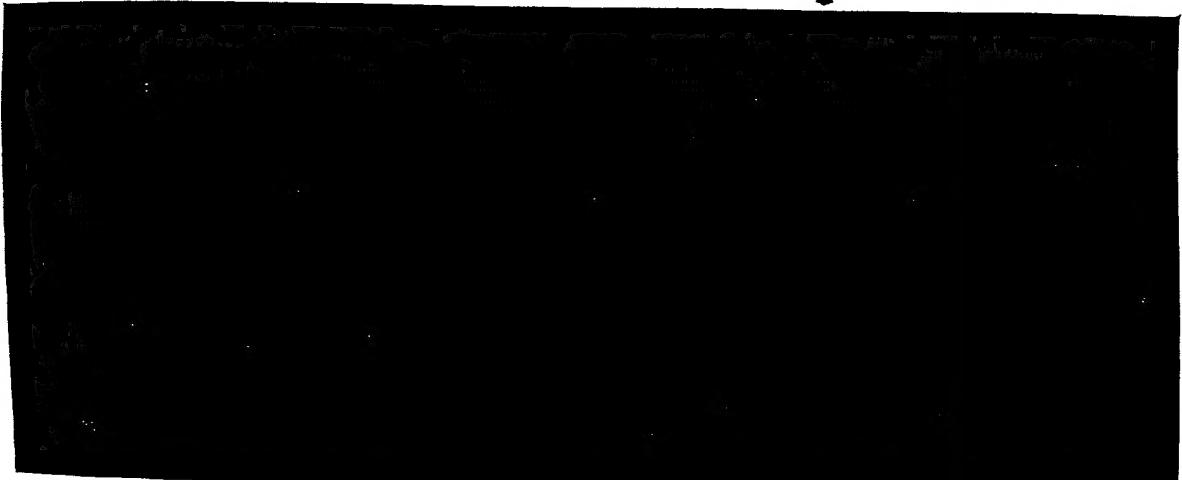
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Highlights

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Significant Developments

Western Europe

Italy

Terrorism in Northern Italy

Ethnic German separatists recently staged a series of attacks in Alto Adige, causing slight damage to various targets but no injuries. Bombs exploded at a police station, a railway workers' barracks, and an apartment building for ethnic Italian families. Shots were fired at another police station, and a railway electric powerline was sabotaged. Police later arrested a former press photographer, Leo Flenger, for suspected participation in the attacks. Flenger is known to associate with ethnic German separatists, who want to reunify the Alto Adige region with portions of Austria. He was identified as the source of a telephone threat and had a radio altered to receive police communications. Police anticipate arresting his accomplices soon.

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Turkey

PKK Massacres Villagers, Seizes Hostages

Violence by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey escalated this spring, when PKK members carried out their bloodiest attack in their three-year insurgent campaign. An estimated 30 to 60 PKK members set fire to houses in a village in Mardin Province on 20 June and then shot the fleeing villagers, killing 30 persons—including 16 children. The massacre follows a series of PKK attacks

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on government-armed village guard: begun this year to discourage their participation in a government security program. [REDACTED] the 20 June attack was carried out by the Kurdistan People's Liberation Army (ARGK), a PKK front formed in the past year to unite Kurds regardless of whether they share the PKK's Marxist ideals. b (3)

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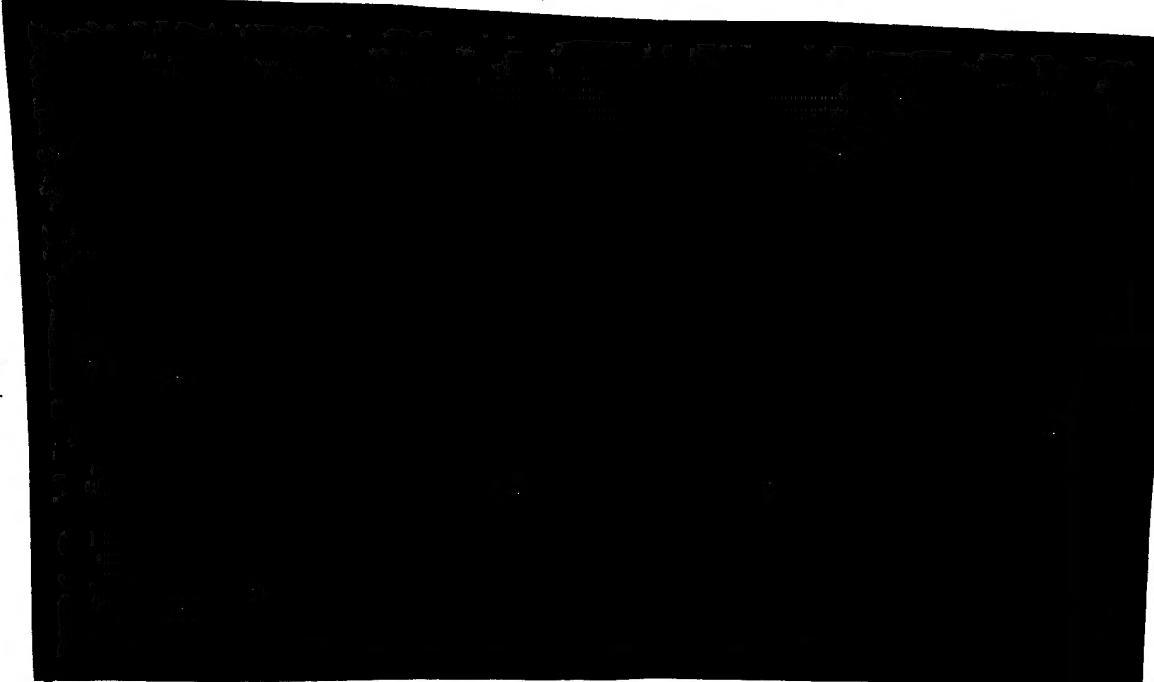
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Since early May the PKK has kidnaped several groups of people in Hakkari Province, which borders Iran and Iraq:

- PKK members kidnaped 12 persons near the Iranian border on 1 May. Three hostages escaped, one of whom reportedly claimed that they were taken to a PKK camp in Iran. Iran has denied the allegation.
- The PKK reportedly abducted five peasants in early June near the Iraqi border. Three of the hostages escaped; the others presumably remain hostages.
- On 2 June, 26 forestry workers were seized in a nighttime raid against their camp. Turkish forces freed them three days later after a gunfight in which two terrorists and a Turkish soldier died.
- PKK members kidnaped eight more persons on 4 June. One escaped; the rest presumably are still being held.
- Four more persons were abducted on 7 June.
- Fifteen villagers were kidnaped on 1 July.

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Middle East



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Latin America

Peru

Riot Anniversary Passes Quietly

An expected wave of terrorist attacks to commemorate last year's prison riots failed to materialize. During the riots 250 Sendero Luminoso (SL) terrorists were killed in clashes with security forces on 19 June 1986, and surviving SL terrorists had vowed revenge. The Peruvian Government has claimed that good police work and preemptive action foiled the terrorists' plans. If the claim is true, the day marked a triumph for the security forces, which have had little success in combating SL's activities. However, SL simply may have decided to conserve its human and material resources for other attacks. b (3)

South/East Asia

India

Sikh Violence Reaches Crescendo

Sikh terrorism reached new heights of brutality early in June. Five Sikh extremists hijacked a bus bound for a Hindu pilgrimage center on 6 July and opened fire on the passengers, killing 38 persons and wounding 38 others. The attackers escaped, sparing the driver, a Sikh. On 7 July Sikh extremists ambushed two buses in Haryana, killing a total of 34 persons and wounding 15. [REDACTED] identified the perpetrators as members of the Khalistan Commando Force. b (1) b (3)

The death toll of 72 is the highest since the Sikhs began their campaign of violence five years ago. At least six persons, including five Sikhs, were said to have been killed across northern India in reprisal for the bus attacks. Dozens were wounded and many stores were burned. Sikh extremists want to undermine the imposition of direct rule by New Delhi in the Punjab. b (3)

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Philippines

Attack on Elections Building

Terrorists tossed a grenade from a car and opened fire on a building housing the Philippine Elections Commission on 21 June. Two persons were wounded and a number of windows were broken. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Rightwing opponents of President Corazon Aquino [REDACTED] criticized the Commission for manipulating the results of the 11 May congressional election.

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US Facilities Bombed

Several bombs probably planted by pro-Marcos loyalists exploded on 4 July at two US facilities in Manila: the International School and the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center. The explosions [REDACTED] caused little damage and no injuries. On the same day bombs also exploded at the Central Manila Park Chapel, an antique locomotive on display at a park in Fort Santiago, and a private residence. No injuries occurred, and no one claimed responsibility. The bombings probably are part of a continuing effort by Marcos supporters to discredit and embarrass the Aquino government.

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Africa

Djibouti

Palestinian Group and Libya Probably Behind Restaurant Bombing

[REDACTED] the Popular Struggle Front (PSF), a small radical Palestinian group sponsored by Libya, was responsible for the bombing on 18 March of the Cafe Historil that killed 11 persons, including five French soldiers. Moreover, the confessed terrorist, Hassan Adouani, may have received some money in Libya:

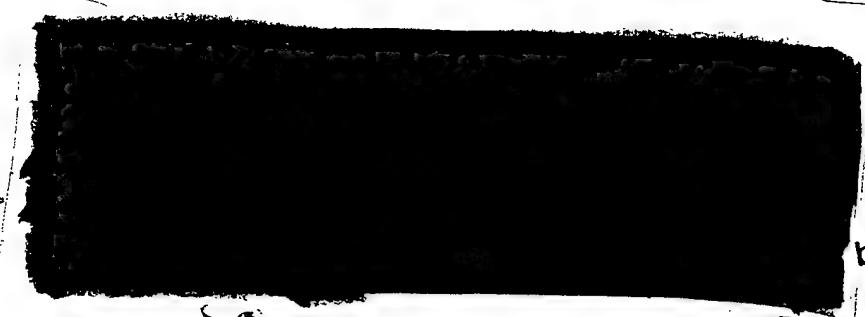
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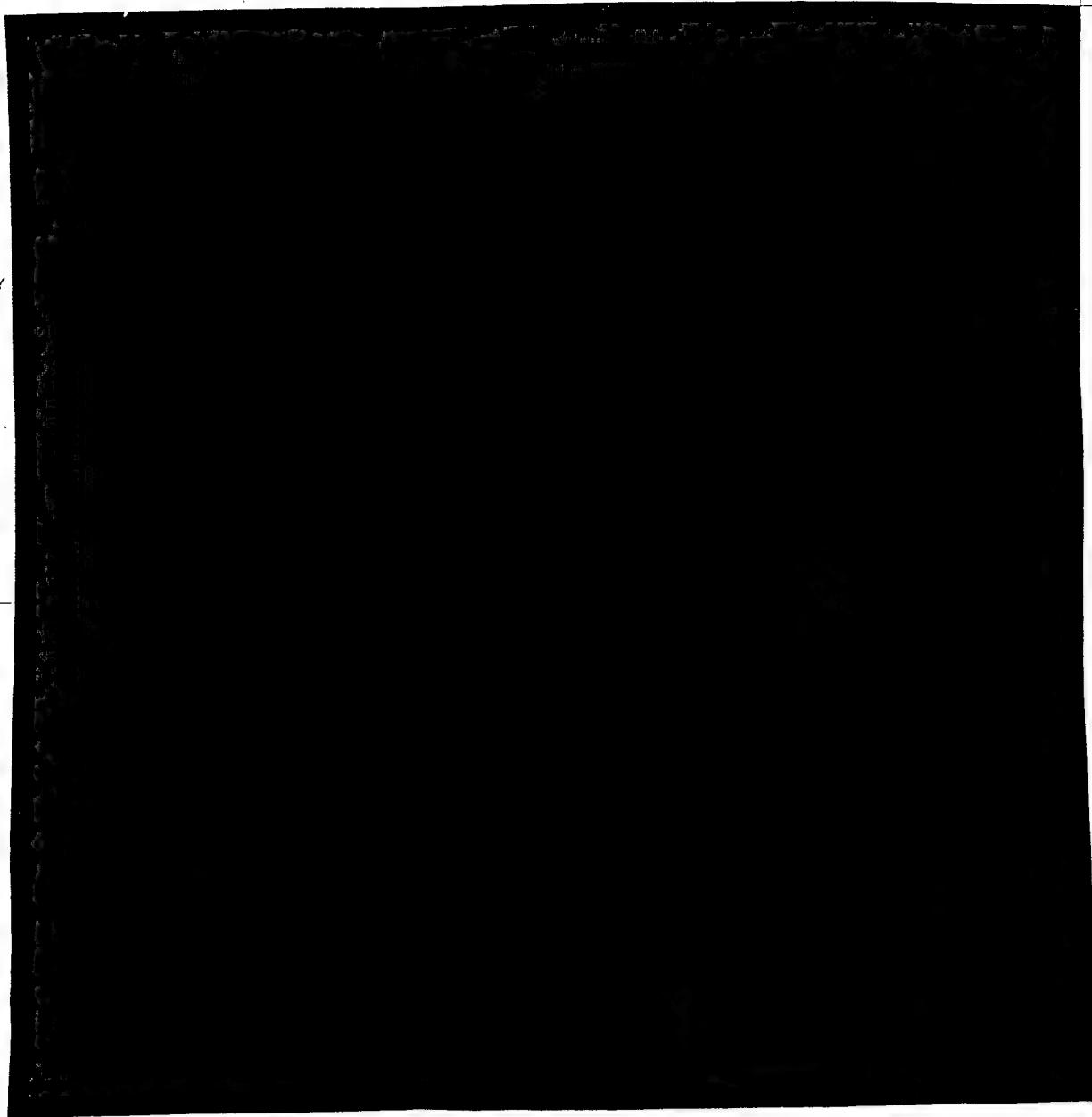
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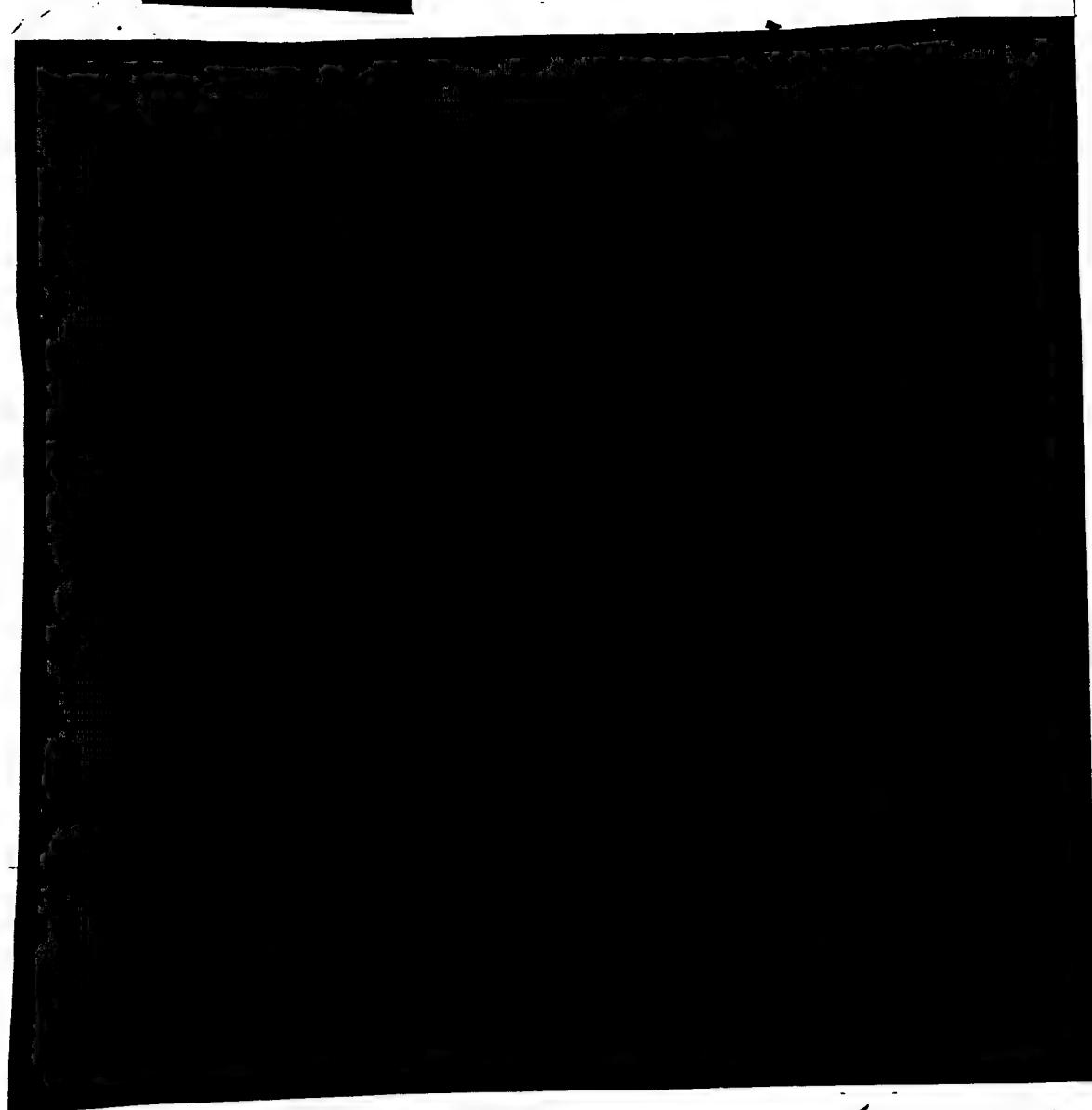
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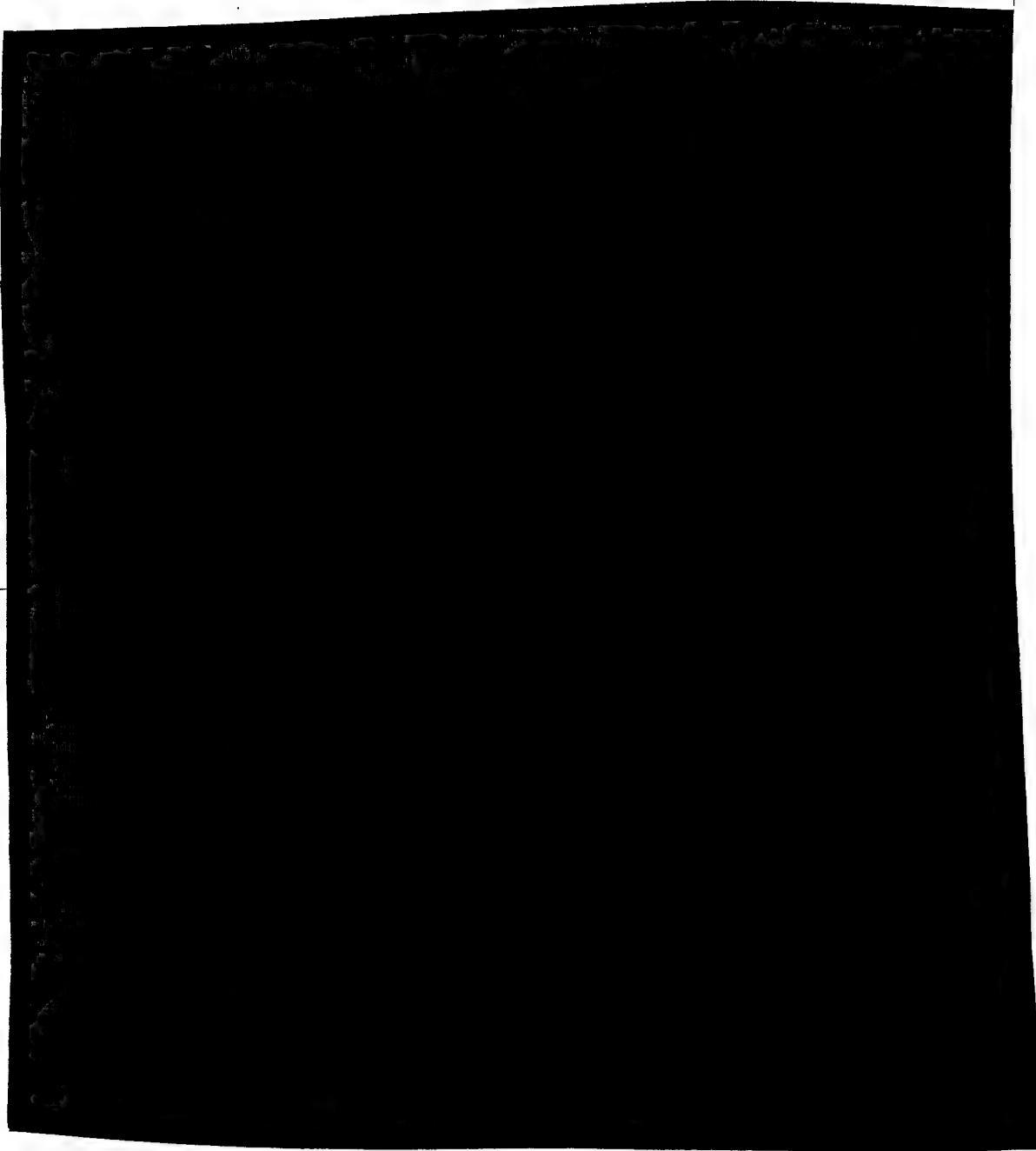
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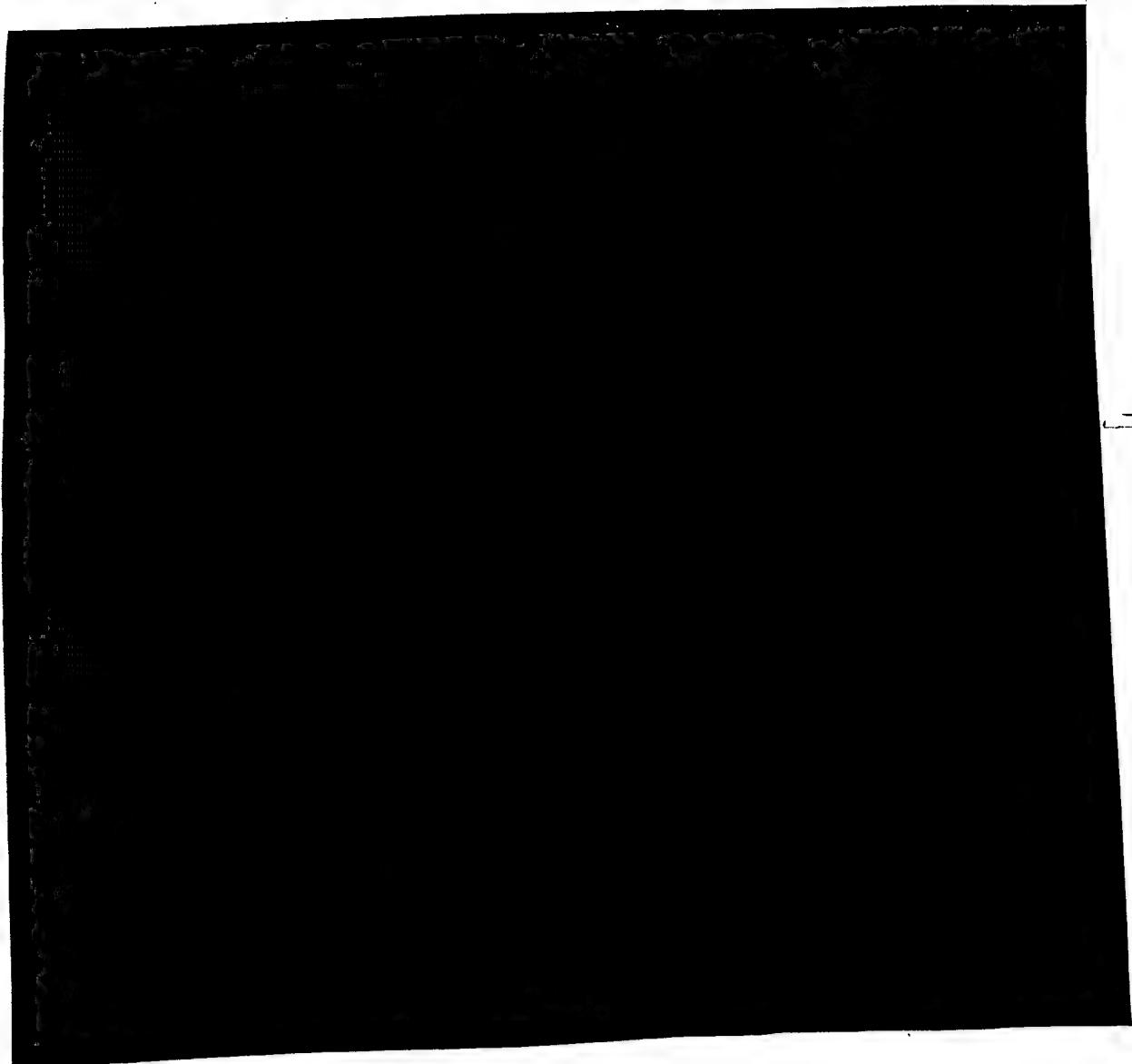
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Spain: Basque Terrorism
Increases in Catalonia

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Spain is upgrading security forces in Barcelona in an attempt to curb recent terrorist activity there by the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) group. ETA car bomb explosions have killed 21 persons and injured 64 others—mostly civilians—since March.

- On 2 April a young mechanic was killed when a car bomb exploded near the Civil Guard barracks in Barcelona.
- On 27 March an ETA attack at a busy Barcelona port at lunchtime killed one Civil Guard and injured 16 other persons. More deaths would have occurred if a large truck filled with paper supplies—which absorbed much of the shrapnel—had not been parked next to the car.

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Since March, ETA has conducted a spate of car bomb attacks in Barcelona, showing less concern for civilian casualties:

- On 8 April a man and his child were injured when ETA firebombed the offices of a French banking association in Barcelona.

Targeting Civilians

On 19 June, ETA staged its most lethal attack on record against a civilian target. It set off a powerful car bomb

in the underground garage of a crowded Barcelona supermarket. It killed 18 persons and injured 39 others. The explosion turned the garage into a suffocating inferno that prevented rescue workers from entering for several hours. Although ETA reportedly phoned advance warnings, this was the first time the group executed an attack where the potential for and actual civilian casualties were so great.

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Nationwide public condemnation of the massacre may have prompted ETA's vague public apology for the attack issued in a communique to the press two days later. Over 100,000 persons demonstrated in Barcelona under the banner "Catalonia rejects terrorism," and union spokesmen said up to 700,000 persons stopped work to observe five minutes of silence to condemn the attack. [REDACTED] ETA stated, "We recognize, in line with our path of revolutionary honesty, the grave error committed in the course of this operation." ETA did not clarify what it meant by "error." ETA pledged to "use all available means to make sure that such occurrences do not happen again." Although the communique stated that the attack "caused irreparable damage, tarnished the purity of our national liberation struggle," it also placed on Madrid the responsibility for the attack because it refused to discuss the Basque region's self-determinations. [REDACTED]

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A Major Economic Target

ETA also claimed credit for a fiery explosion on 12 June at one of the nation's major petrochemical plants in Catalonia, which forced local evacuations and caused damage estimated between \$8 million and \$16 million. The plant manager suspects employees who belong to the HB party of complicity in the attack. ETA reportedly placed two shrapnel-filled bombs with mechanical timers near chemical tubes on a distillation rack. One tube ignited and also could have ignited two butane storage tanks had firemen not acted quickly. Thousands of local residents had to be evacuated, although a stiff sea breeze dispersed toxic fumes. Madrid has increased security at key industrial plants in response to ETA's attack. [REDACTED]

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The attack on the petrochemical plant is a departure from ETA practice elsewhere. When operating in the Basque provinces, ETA avoids significant economic targets and primarily attacks small French businesses, usually car dealerships. Basque businesses, however, are sources of extortion funds, and businessmen are sometimes kidnaped and released for a ransom. [REDACTED]

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Chronology of Terrorism—1987

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Below are described noteworthy foreign and international events involving terrorists, or the use of terrorist tactics, which have come to light since our last issue. In some cases, the perpetrators and their motivations may not be known. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included. b (3)

1 May

Chile: Sabotage of power lines causes major blackout in areas of Santiago. The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) claimed responsibility.

b (3)

19-20 May

South Africa: Limpet mine explodes in Johannesburg at the Carlton Center, causing damage to nearby shops but no injuries. No group has claimed responsibility.

b (3)

25 May

Turkey: Five Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) members are killed in shootout with police in Adiyaman Province. Police confiscated weapons and organizational documents.

b (3)

29 May

Chile: Arson attack on two buses in Valparaiso causes damage but no injuries. No group has claimed responsibility.

b (3)

Late May

Turkey: Five Turkish Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist partisan members are killed in security operations in the village of Yalnizadamlar. A policeman also was killed.

b (3)

Turkey: Militant in charge of PKK publications in Europe is sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. Turkish authorities have also indicted him for insulting the Turkish armed forces and the Turkish Government in his 197-page political defense.

b (3)

Early June

Turkey: Ankara court sentences three terrorists for smuggling arms and explosives into Turkey. Muhammad Abdu Hallum, a Syrian believed to be an Iraqi intelligence agent who was recruited by Syrian intelligence, was sentenced to 20 years in prison. The other two defendants received lesser prison terms.

b (3)

Turkey: Five Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left) members are arrested in Istanbul. The militants were wanted for armed robbery. Police also seized chemicals used for making explosives, posters, and organizational documents. [REDACTED]

b (3)

1 June

Turkey: Two terrorists including a woman, probably belonging to the PKK, are killed in a gun battle with security forces in Bingol. The two [REDACTED] participated in various terrorist attacks. [REDACTED]

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West Bank: Molotov cocktail shatters window of Israeli bus in Jerusalem. The bus driver sustained slight head injuries. [REDACTED]

b (3)

2 June

Lebanon: Bomb explodes in car parked opposite a private residence in Sidon. There were no casualties, and no group has claimed responsibility. [REDACTED]

b (3)

3 June

Argentina: Bomb fails to explode at a power plant near Buenos Aires. [REDACTED]

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Greece: Shooting incident at US Embassy officer's residence causes little damage and no injuries. No one claimed responsibility. [REDACTED]

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Peru: Bomb explodes at Huancayo electric power plant, seriously injuring three technical school students visiting the plant. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing. [REDACTED]

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Peru: Unknown perpetrators attack a USAID-funded project in the Upper Huallaga Valley. Mortar shells stolen from the Peruvian Army were used in the attack. No injuries were reported, and no one has claimed responsibility for the incident. [REDACTED]

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4 June

Lebanon: Three terrorists are shot to death in clash with Israeli Defense Force and Southern Lebanese Army troops in the northern sector of the security zone. [REDACTED]

b (3)

Turkey: Bomb explodes outside Istanbul police station, injuring a soldier passing by. The bomb damaged two cars, the police station, and surrounding buildings. [REDACTED]

Although no group

claimed responsibility, the local press is linking these devices to the Marxist-Leninist Armed Propaganda Unit (MLAPU) and the sixth anniversary commemorating the deaths of four MLAPU central committee members. [REDACTED]

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West Bank: Arab youth stabs a 14-year-old Israeli youth in Hebron. The victim's injuries were described as light. [REDACTED]

b (3)

5 June

Bolivia: Bomb explodes at a newspaper office in Cochabamba, causing serious damage but no injuries. No group has claimed responsibility.

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West Bank: Nablus youth is killed by stray bullet as Israeli soldiers respond to stoning attack. The violence marked the 20th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

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West Bank: Molotov cocktail is thrown at Israeli Army vehicle in downtown Hebron. The area was placed under curfew.

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6 June

Kuwait: State Security Court sentences six oilfield saboteurs to death. Others found guilty in the attacks in June 1986 and January 1987 were sentenced to prison terms.

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7 June

Cyprus: Car bomb explodes in Nicosia, killing the former director of prisons. No one claimed responsibility for the incident.

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Israel: Handgrenades discovered on two Israeli buses in Rehovot and Petah Tikva.

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Iraq: Kurdish insurgents attack Turkish vehicles in Iraq's Dohuk District, 60 kilometers from Turkey. Serious casualties reportedly resulted.

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Peru: Police arrest two Sendero Luminoso (SL) "hit squad" leaders in Huancayo. A third leader escaped.

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9 June

Chile: Bomb explodes at apartment of mayor of Arica, causing damage but no injuries. but no group has claimed responsibility.

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Turkey: Guerrillas ambush military convoy in Mardin, killing an army officer and three soldiers. Nine others were injured.

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Turkey: Four separatists shoot and kill village alderman in Bingol. The terrorists, probably members of the PKK, escaped.

b (3)

West Bank: Molotov cocktail is thrown at Israeli vehicle traveling through Qalqilya. No damages or injuries were reported.

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10 June

Iran: Armed men bomb the Japanese trading firm Mitsui and Co. The attackers claimed to be communists who objected to Japan's alleged economic influence over Iran.

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Lebanon: Three Soviet-made rockets, fired from West Beirut, explode 500 yards from Baabda Presidential Palace. The rockets struck the gardens of the palace but caused no injuries. President Gemayel was not in residence at the time.

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11 June

Chile: Bombs explode at the National Intelligence Center and a printing company, and a police patrol is fired on. Three persons were injured at the printing firm; there were no casualties in the other incidents. The FPMR claimed responsibility for the attacks.

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12 June

Bolivia: Dynamite is used against the Chilean Consulate in Cochabamba. There were no injuries, and damage to the Consulate was minimal. No one has claimed responsibility.

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Pakistan: Bombs explode simultaneously at a private clinic and telecommunications training school in Peshawar, causing extensive damage. Three Afghan refugees were injured at the clinic, and two other persons were injured at the school. No group has claimed responsibility.

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Sri Lanka: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas attack two Sinhalese villages in Medirigiriya and Amparai, killing 14 persons—including one soldier—and wounding six others.

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13 June

Peru: The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) claims responsibility for coordinated bombing attacks on two banks, a Helen Curtis Laboratory, and a Volvo automobile dealership. Two guards were injured in the bombings.

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14 June

Chile: Youths fire weapons and throw molotov cocktails in the streets of a Santiago neighborhood. The assailants wore hoods marked Movement of the Revolutionary Left. No injuries were reported.

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15 June

Lebanon: Package containing explosives detonates in front of the residence of a Fatah official in Beirut. There was property damage, but no one was injured. No one has claimed responsibility.

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15-16 June

Chile: Twelve members of the FPMR are killed in clashes with police and security forces. No government casualties were reported.

b (3)

16 June

Chile: Electoral registration offices are attacked in Santiago and Cerro Navia, and a mothers' center is bombed in Santiago. A policeman was wounded at the registration office in Santiago. There were no injuries reported in the other incidents, but the mothers' center was completely destroyed. No one has claimed responsibility.

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Sri Lanka: Security forces recover a large stock of munitions from several Tamil groups in Jaffna, including 8 tons of high explosives seized from base camps, an abandoned vessel, and a person traveling on a bus.

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17 June

France: Antiindependence leader Jean-Paul Lafay is shot dead while leaving television studio in Ajaccio. A caller claiming to represent the National Front for the Liberation of Corsica (FLNC) accepted responsibility for the killing. The following day, the FLNC denied responsibility for the murder and said the earlier admission was made by an unknown person with no connections to the group.

b (3)

Pakistan: Powerful bomb damages wall in a compound housing Afghan resistance parties in Peshawar. The target could have been either the Hezb-e Islami (Hekmatyar faction) office or the Jamiat-e Islami (Rabbani faction) office. There has been no claim of responsibility.

b (3)

Peru: Bomb attack at the home of the head of Chimbote Public Registry injures the man. Explosions also occurred at the town courthouse. No group has claimed responsibility for the acts but police suspect the MRTA.

b (3)

West Bank: Molotov cocktail is thrown at Israeli police station in Toubas, Nablus district. No damage was reported.

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18 June

Argentina: Police defuse an explosive device in the office of the Radical Civic Union. The bomb contained TNT and was primed to explode. No group has claimed responsibility.

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19 June

France: Bomb explodes outside electronics company in Paris, shattering windows and starting a fire but causes no injuries. No one claimed responsibility for the explosion.

b (3)

20 June

Chile: Police discover Soviet-made rocket in a building near the Santiago headquarters of the Investigations Police. The rocket also had Czech-made T-4 explosives attached. No one claimed responsibility.

b (3)

Spain: Bomb explodes outside French bank in Pamplona, causing extensive damage and slightly injuring a policeman. The Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) organization claimed responsibility in messages to local media.

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21 June

Chile: Two persons are killed attempting to plant a bomb in a building in Los Angeles. The victims were killed when the bomb exploded prematurely at a bank. Many local officials had attended a dance held in the building but had left before the explosion occurred, probably in the early morning.

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France: Gasoline bomb damages trade union meeting room in Rambouillet. No one was injured. Leaflets found at the scene were signed by a movement calling itself Young Guard.

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Greece: Police arrest fugitive Red Brigades terrorist Maurizio Folini. The arrest was a joint Greek-Italian operation.

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22 June

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23 June

France: Police in the French Pyrenees arrest two suspected Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) organization members. The men were seized as part of an anti-ETA crackdown along the French-Spanish border.

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Northern Ireland: Gunmen kill off-duty Protestant policeman as he arrives for work at a Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) station in North Belfast. One of the gunmen concealed his weapon in a baby carriage and fired at the victim from a childrens' playground. The Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for the attack.

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24 June

Argentina: A series of bombs explode in Buenos Aires and other cities at the offices of President Alfonsin's Radical Party. Fifteen offices were bombed, probably in connection with upcoming elections, and four incurred heavy damage. No injuries were reported, and no one has claimed responsibility.

b (3)

Lebanon: Unidentified gunmen kill Lebanese Army captain serving as liaison officer to the UN peacekeeping force. The officer was fired upon as he was driving an Army jeep to the military barracks in Tyre.

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Lebanon: Gunmen in Tripoli shoot and seriously wound former official of the Mosques and Quarters Committee in the Al-Tabbanah area. There has been no claim of responsibility.

b (3)

Northern Ireland: Catholic father of four is shot and killed outside his west Belfast home by two masked men. The Provisional IRA said the victim was murdered because he was "an informer for the Royal Ulster Constabulary."

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Northern Ireland: Masked gunman fires shots at part-time Ulster Defense Regiment (UDR) soldier in Newcastle. The off-duty soldier and his four colleagues were not hurt. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

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Pakistan: Three bombings are thwarted in the Peshawar area. Passengers defuse a bomb found in a candy box aboard a bus in Peshawar. In a second incident, police seized a 2.5-kilogram bomb from an alleged KHAD agent in Hayatabad. In the third incident, police recovered eight handgrenades at Munda Bridge and arrested three people.

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Spain: Small bomb explodes while being defused by police at beach resort discotheque in Lloret del Mar. There were no injuries, and little damage was sustained. No one claimed responsibility.

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25 June

[REDACTED] b (1) b (3)

Chile: Bomb explodes in Santiago at office of progovernment publication. There was serious damage but no injuries. No group has claimed responsibility.

b (3)

Chile: Bomb explodes at a supermarket in eastern Santiago, causing considerable material damage but no injuries. No group has claimed responsibility.

b (3)

Spain: Homemade bomb explodes in Barcelona suburb tax office, injuring seven persons. Responsibility for the blast was claimed by the Catalan separatist group Terra Lliure (Free Land). It occurred a few hours before three suspected members of the group were due to appear in court on charges of weapons possession.

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26 June

Corsica: One of Corsica's most wanted terrorists is arrested by police near Bastia. Charles Pieri, his girlfriend, and three others were apprehended in an isolated house. Police also seized documents, several handguns, some knives, and a grenade.

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Lebanon: An organization calling itself the Islamic Army claimed responsibility for firing a rocket and machineguns at a joint Syrian-Lebanese security center in the Quraytum area of West Beirut.

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Spain: Police in Pamplona detain two suspected members of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) organization; a third suspect fled. Police later discovered two weapons caches containing a submachinegun, three pistols and explosives.

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Spain: France expels 68th suspected Basque separatist to Madrid. Pedro Maria Goikoechea Errazkin was handed over to authorities after being held overnight in a San Sebastian police station.

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27 June

Lebanon: Gunmen attack army lieutenant in the Al-Tahwitah area of Burj al-Barajnah, inflicting head and arm injuries. The gunmen intercepted the officer's car and forced him out of the vehicle, then stole his insignia and pistol magazine after the assault.

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Sri Lanka: Police arrest 65 members of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front), an extreme leftist group allegedly responsible for raids on two government military camps near Colombo on 7 June.

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29 June

Chile: Two bombs explode outside a government office in Talca, causing minimal material damage and injuring three people. No group had claimed responsibility.

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30 June

Mozambique: Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) rebels kill 11 persons, including a regional official, in Nampula Province during celebrations of the ruling party's 25th anniversary.

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Northern Ireland: Gunmen murder Catholic man in his north Belfast apartment. There was no claim of responsibility.

b (3)

Philippines: Unidentified gunmen shoot and kill police major in street ambush in Bulacan Province. The victim was driving when he was stopped and shot at close range. The New People's Army involvement is suspected.

b (3)

1 July

Lebanon: Three persons responsible for plotting or carrying out bombings aimed against the Syrian forces are arrested, including a Syrian national. Syrian forces had seized a quantity of weapons and ammunition of various types and calibers in the Ba'labakk area during the preceding 48 hours.

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